

## REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

DATE: November 7, 2013

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PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: For Information

DEADLINE DATE: none

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### BACKGROUND:

- Former waste pits used for disposal of paper mill wastes containing dioxins and furans.
- EPA issued Unilateral Administrative Order in November 2009 for completion of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.
- Time critical removal action (TCRA) completed July 2011 by Respondents to cover waste pits (temporary cap) and prevent further releases to the river.

### CURRENT STATUS:

- Draft Feasibility Study, which considers alternatives for addressing contamination at the site, is undergoing review by EPA, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Harris County, Port of Houston, and the Trustees. The draft was prepared by the Potentially Responsible Parties.
- Resolution of the potential violation issues relating to the TCRA is pending.
- On November 1, 2013, EPA notified the Potentially Responsible Parties to address the TCRA cap design and construction protectiveness issues until the final Site remedy is selected. A cap repair work plan is due within 30 days.

### ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

- Fish consumption advisories in place for San Jacinto River; persons should limit fish consumption to no more than one 8-ounce meal per month, and children under 12 and pregnant women should not eat any species of fish.

### TECHNICAL CONCERNS:

- TCRA cap erosion repaired in August 2012. The US Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the cap design and construction and determined that there are deficiencies (including slope and grading of cap materials).

### REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Port of Houston, Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County, and others may apply depending on the final remedy selected.
- Established a Special Clean Water Act permit area regarding dredging and disposal in vicinity of Site.

### COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

- Contamination of river and fish in the entire watershed.
- The EPA co-leads a Community Advisory Committee regarding Site activities. This committee includes the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Harris County, the Port of Houston, Houston Galveston Area Council, the Galveston Bay Foundation, and the Potentially Responsible Parties. This committee meets every other month regarding progress at the Site and community issues.
- The EPA is participating with the Houston Galveston Area Council (HGAC) to study impacts of discharges to the San Jacinto River and watershed.
- A Technical Assistance Grant has been awarded to Galveston Bay Foundation.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Completion of the Feasibility Study and cap repairs.

